

WICHE president touts balanced approach to tuition-setting in Washington State

David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), said Washington's policy of providing moderate tuition with relatively high amounts of financial aid for the neediest students is a model that is gaining national favor.

Meeting with the Board and its Advisory Council, Longanecker described the Washington tuition model as 'comfortable ground' in the middle of three dominant tuition philosophies at U.S. colleges and universities: low tuition/access; high tuition/high aid; low tuition/high aid. Washington charges higher tuition than most western states, which have traditionally offered low tuition (but relatively little state-funded financial aid). Washington's model is more moderate than Michigan, which has a high-tuition/high-aid model. [Read more.](#)



David Longanecker

Board approves revised budget principles

Faced with a continuing downward spiral in the state's revenue forecast, the Washington Higher Education Board agreed at its February meeting to revise a set of principles it approved to help guide the Legislature and Governor in making budget decisions about higher education.

Money from the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act (ARRA) may help Washington higher education institutions avoid the most severe cuts. The Board has argued the state should not attempt to balance its budget on the backs of higher education or students.

Section 14004 of the ARRA – Uses of Funds by Institutions of Higher Education – states: "A public institution of higher education that receives funds under this title shall use the funds for education and general expenditures, and in such a way as to mitigate the need to raise tuition and fees for in-state students."

Budget principles

1. Any cuts made to higher education budgets should be in proportion to cuts in the general state budget.
2. Fully fund any new enrollments and any other enhancements.
3. Limit tuition increases to those allowed within current law and policy.
 - A sunset clause on tuition increases should be included.
 - Any increase should be treated as a surcharge, not as policy.
4. Set State Need Grant funding at a level sufficient to offset tuition increases impacting students at the lowest income levels.
5. Provide institutions the flexibility to manage their budget cuts to the level of appropriation provided, and adjust accountability for outcomes to reflect the new realities these cuts would create.

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Chinese higher education leaders visit HECB, Washington



Beijing Normal University professor Xiaoman Wei and Jie Ma, associate director in the Assessment Office of the Chinese Ministry of Education, review a point in Washington's strategic master plan implementation strategy. [Read more.](#)

Mobilizing technology to increase student access, success

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GET enrollments continuing at record pace as March 31 deadline approaches
[Read more.](#)

[GET launches ad campaign on TV and YouTube to encourage families to save for college](#)

Executive Director's Report

Ann Daley, HECB executive director, reviewed the Governor's proposed budget for higher education, noting that higher education is a talent industry, not an industrial/manufacturing enterprise.

"When faced with budget cuts, higher education is forced to become more efficient, which is not productive to the things we do. Efficiency means larger class sizes, longer times to degrees, less time for research, and fewer course offerings," Daley said.

Administrative cuts also directly impact the ability to deliver instruction, Daley said. Under the Governor's proposed budget, higher education would take cuts, but maintain its share of total state revenue. Proposed budget reductions will slow progress toward the statewide goal of increased degree attainment, she said. [Read more.](#)

Technology can help us educate more students better, faster, and with less cost

HB 1946, which has been moving through the Legislature on a fast track, directs the HECB to convene a task force to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of education through the strategic and operational use of technology. [Read the bill.](#)

Cable Green, Director, eLearning, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Gary Pratt, Chief Information Officer, Eastern Washington University, Viji Murali, Vice President for Information Services and CIO, Washington State University, and Bob Billings, CIO, HECB, offered ideas about how technology can be used to achieve *Strategic Master Plan* goals. [Read more.](#)

GET program tuition-sensitive

Betty Everitt Lochner, director of the Guaranteed Education Tuition program, gave a brief report to the Board about how tuition increases affect the fund's long-term stability. Measured and moderate tuition increases over time help secure the fund's stability, she said.

Lochner said sharp tuition increases play havoc with the fund's actuarial calculations and if continued over time would undermine the fund's solvency. She emphasized the fund is fiscally sound, able to meet all its obligations for the next 15 years. [Read more.](#)

Report on differentiated tuition policies

Sarah Norris, policy analyst, presented a report on issues surrounding the adoption of various types of tuition policies in effect in American higher education. Differentiated tuition policies include policies based on income (sliding scale or graduated); the number of credits taken; upper/lower division coursework; by program or discipline; and by resident or nonresident status.

The report notes that high-tuition/high-aid policies are correlated with higher dropout rates among lower- and middle-income students; and that income-based tuition models can make it difficult for families to plan for college and for institutions to predict future revenue. [Read more.](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD



[New Key Facts report](#)
offers wealth of
information about
college enrollments,
student demographics,
financial aid in
Washington higher
education.

[State celebrates
GEAR UP Day Feb. 18](#)

Mark Your Calendar
Next Board meeting
9 am - 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 26

State Investment Board
2100 Evergreen Park Dr SW,
Olympia

Check back after March 20
for agenda items at:
[www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.
asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp)

On the preliminary agenda:

- Skilled and Educated Workforce joint report
- Legislative update
- Tuition and fee report